

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-06 EB-07 AID-05 CU-02 ACDA-07

MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EA-07 DHA-02 /129 R

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AF:WESCHAUFLE, JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY MADRID

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168804

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MR,US

SUBJECT: KOCHMAN CALL ON AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY

, SUMMARY: MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN PAID INITIAL
CALL ON AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY JULY 2. KOCHMAN STRESSED
MAURITANIA'S DESIRE FOR STRENGTHENED COOPERATION WITH US,
EMPHASIZED HE ENJOYS PERSONAL CONFIDENCE OF PRESIDENT
OULD DADDAH, AND OUTLINED PROPOSALS FOR EXPANDING MUTUAL
KNOWLEDGE AND THUS FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN US AND MAURITANIA
--SPECIFICALLY POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY PRESIDENT OULD
DADDAH'S WIFE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOTED GOOD PROSPECTS
FOR CLOSE TIES WITH MAURITANIA, REMINDED AMBASSADOR OF
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DISRUPTIVE EFFECT OF UNWARRANTED CRITICISM OF US IN

INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, AND AGREED THAT WE WOULD WORK WITH KOCHMAN REGARDING SPECIFIC HIGH LEVEL VISITOR EXCHANGES HE PROPOSED. ASSISTANT SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT AREA IN WHICH US COULD BE OF MOST ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IS IN PRIVATE ECONOMIC SECTOR. END SUMMARY.

2. IN INITIAL CALL ON AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE, JULY 2, MAURITANIAN AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN SAID US-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS ALREADY CORDIAL AND HE LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING WITH SCHAUFLE, WHOM HE HAS KNOWN FOR SOME TIME. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HOPES US

WILL PLAY INTERMEDIARY ROLE IN MAURITANIA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. US PRIVATE SECTOR HAS MADE GOOD BEGINNING IN MINING SECTOR, AND POSSIBILITIES EXIST IN FISHERIES AND AGROINDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WOULD NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF DEVELOPING CLOSE, FRUITFUL TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAD APPRECIATED SECRETARY'S LETTER ON CLUB DES AMIS DU SAHEL, AND WELCOMES US INTEREST IN LONG TERM SAHEL DEVELOPMENT. KOCHMAN FELT THAT KEY FACTOR IN PROMOTING WARMER US-MAURITANIAN RELATIONS IS INCREASED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. A WELL ORGANIZED PROGRAM OF EXCHANGE VISITS, FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES, WOULD BE USEFUL AND WELL RECEIVED BY GIRM LEADERSHIP. REFERRING TO ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE PLAYED BY PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH'S WIFE, KOCHMAN SUGGESTED THAT MADAME OULD DADDAH'S ALREADY PLANNED VISIT TO US IN SEPTEMBER MIGHT USEFULLY BE REPROGRAMMED AS AN OFFICIAL EXCHANGE VISIT. (KOCHMAN ASSERTED IDEA ALREADY CHECKED OUT WITH MADAME OULD DADDAH AND THE PRESIDENT, BUT NO ONE ELSE--THEREFORE REQUESTED IT BE CONSIDERED "OFF THE RECORD".)

4. SHIFTING TO WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM, KOCHMAN DEPLORED RECENT "ALGERIAN SPONSORED" VIOLENCE AGAINST NOUAKCHOTT. MAURITANIA STANDS PREPARED TO RESIST, BUT NEEDS MORE ARMS AND EQUIPMENT. DISAVOWING ANY MANDATE TO TALK ABOUT CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMS PURCHASES, KOCHMAN REQUESTED DETAILED INFORMATION ON US ARMS SALES/CREDIT PROGRAMS, PROCEDURES, LAWS, AND REGULATIONS TO RELAY TO NOUAKCHOTT. MAURITANIA HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED ITS FEELING OF CLOSENESS TO THE US BY SENDING LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD FROM PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH REGARDING NOUAKCHOTT RAID. KOCHMAN HOPED FOR PROMPT RESPONSE FROM WHITE HOUSE FOR PERSONAL DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH WHEN KOCHMAN RETURNS TO NOUAKCHOTT

FOR CONSULTATIONS A FEW WEEKS AFTER PRESENTING CREDENTIALS AT WHITE HOUSE JULY 9. KOCHMAN PRESENTATION CLOSED WITH NOTE THAT HIS "DISCREET, PERMANENT DIALOGUE" WITH PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH ENABLED HIM TO SPEAK THIS FRANKLY, AND THAT THIS, TOGETHER WITH HIS OWN EXTENSIVE WASHINGTON EXPERIENCE, WOULD AID GIRM'S ALREADY FIRM DETERMINATION TO DEVELOP CLOSER FRIENDSHIP WITH US.

5. IN RESPONSE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE AGREED WE DO NOT HAVE SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS, AND HAD KEPT SOME FORM OF EXCHANGE OPEN EVEN DURING PERIOD WHEN RELATIONS INTERRUPTED IN AFTERMATH OF 1967 ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

WITHUNDERSTANDING THAT UNMERITED ATTACKS ON US IN UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WOULD OF COURSE AFFECT OUR RELATIONS, THE USG HOPES FOR AND EXPECTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH MAURITANIA. SOME ISSUES--PUERTO RICO, KOREA, AND ISRAELI EXPULSION--ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US. WE SHOULD PURSUE A DIALOGUE BY WORKING TOGETHER IN SEARCHING FOR POINTS OF AGREEMENT WHILE CONTINUING TO DISCUSS DISAGREEMENTS. SCHAUFLE POINTED OUT THAT MAURITANIA'S ACTION IN LAST YEAR'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ABSENTING ITSELF FROM SOME KOREA VOTES WAS USEFUL STEP, AND HOPED WE COULD FIND OTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION THIS YEAR, WHERE IMPORTANT US INTERESTS ARE INVOLVED AND MAURITANIAN INTERESTS ARE NOT IN SPITE OF MAURITANIA'S TRADITIONAL ADHERENCE TO THIRD WORLD POSITIONS.

6. ON SPECIFICS, SCHAUFLE SAID WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING PERSONAL EXCHANGES AT OFFICIAL LEVELS, BUT REMINDED KOCHMAN OF BUSY POLITICAL SCHEDULE IN US THIS YEAR. SCHAUFLE SUGGESTED THAT KOCHMAN WORK WITH COUNTRY OFFICER TO OBTAIN BRIEFING ON USG ARMS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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MILITARY EQUIPMENT PROGRAMS, BUT CAUTIONED THAT SENSITIVE CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOTED US NEUTRALITY ON SAHARA DISPUTE. HE CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING THAT US COULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO MAURITANIA REGARDING THE PRIVATE SECTOR INTERESTS WHICH AMBASSADOR KOCHMAN HAD RAISED IN HIS OPENING COMMENTS. KISSINGER

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